



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

OFFICE OF FEDERAL
PROCUREMENT POLICY

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM:

Donald E. Sowle
DONALD E. SOWLE

SUBJECT:

Assistance to Small Business

Recent hearings of the Senate Small Business Committee on S. 1947 focused attention on the question of timely publication of proposed procurements in the Commerce Business Daily (CBD). The Committee was also concerned about the time allowed to small business concerns to prepare and submit bids ("bidding time").

Publication in the CBD is an important means by which small business learns of, and thus is able to compete for, Federal procurement. It is essential, therefore, that publication in the CBD be made at the earliest possible time, consistent with orderly procurement processes. In this regard, section 8(e) of the Small Business Act provides for publication in the CBD "immediately after the necessity for the procurement is established." To the extent that current procurement regulations do not appear to reflect the necessity and importance of prompt publication, we will shortly request that they be revised and improved.

It is also important, as noted by the Committee, to give small concerns the benefit of the longest possible bidding time. Regulations provide that, as a general rule, bidding time shall not be less than thirty calendar days. We again share the Committee's concern and ask that you make every possible effort, consistent with the needs of the Government, to meet the needs of small concerns by allowing in your solicitations a minimum of 30 days bidding time.

Prompt publication in the CBD and full bidding periods will, we believe, assist small concerns in receiving their fair share of Federal Government contracts.